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THE WASHINGTON POST
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Personalities

Fact or fiction?

The question was raised yesterday before a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee concerning allegations presented in the best-selling novel "The Spike."

Written by **Arnaud de Borchgrave** and **Robert Moss**, the book suggests the Soviet Union has been able to develop some degree of influence over—or actually recruit as intelligence operatives—key figures within American media, cultural and political circles.

Rep. **Toby Roth** (R-Wis.) raised the issue during the hearing: "After I'd seen some of the things that have been written in some of our national magazines and newspapers, I began to wonder if 'The Spike' was all fiction or if there was something really to it."

Charles Z. Wick, director of the Internationl Communication Agency, responded: "I would say . . . 'The Spike' is probably a very authoritative set of facts that have been woven together into an interesting novel." He also called such a picture of Soviet activities within the U.S. "frightening."

"That's why I'm here in this job," Wick told Roth. "Otherwise I'd be home playing tennis."

—Ann L. Trebbe

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